

# Garden Parties Bring Out Smart Thin Frocks



The young hostess at a garden party wears the frock on the right. It is of white cotton net over thin silk garlanded with buttercups. The bonnet is of these flowers.

The figure above shows a frock of flowered georgette with silk ruchings of the solid color posed on the skirt and at edge of sleeves.

The seated figure wears a frock of pink georgette with its scalloped edges finished with a picot edge of taffeta ribbon.

The figure in the centre wears a gown of white embroidered crepe over a skirt of blue satin.

By ANNE RITTENHOUSE.

IT'S a nice idea to introduce a young girl to society in June. It chimes in with the world's conception of early summer, of the symmetrical and moral attitude toward that especial burst of nature into full flowering.

It is not a new thought that has just come to society. It is one that seems to have suddenly taken root. The family must have a summer home, of course, one that has that special burst of nature in full evidence. It cannot be done at a summer hotel. But the possession of a home where there are trees and open spaces is the privilege of even those in America who are not always ranked among the privileged classes, as the term is understood.

This stupendous continent is full of them, looking their best and gayest in small towns and running close to hot intricate cities. The millions of commuters who make up the industrial classes of this complex network of labor that makes us what we are as a nation count upon such homes in summer to atone to them for the exhaustions of commuting during the winter.

Each and all they make an attractive background for whatever gaiety in the open is scheduled for the hot weather months.

The mother who has a small and inconspicuous house in town or she who is burdened with a large one incompetently run feels the strain of bringing out a daughter and thresholds the air to find some way to solve the problem so that the purse is not emptied to provide an atmosphere of brilliancy and well being.

It is because of this crisis, probably, in the affairs of housekeeping that the old idea of introducing a girl in the summer has been revived; another way of easing the strain.

Simple frocks, food that is not prohibitively dear, a tent or two, cane chairs, a festive porch can be assembled into a picture that is good to look at and good to be in.

**Gives Rise to Garden Parties.**  
It has long been said of debutante parties that none of one's intimates can nor one's important acquaintances; only those who seldom receive cards for any other entertainments.

But with the advent of the open air coming out party those who are invited usually come, all of them. The world and his wife like to eat strawberries under striped tents and drink iced lemonade and tea in comfortable chairs with cushions on a flower strewn porch. They like to put on thin muslin frocks and wear big shades and drift away the twilight hours without the strain of having a dozen engagements dogging the heels and pressing on the brain.

The English and the French know how to live. It is the custom of the fabled, rushed American world when they go to social festivals in open spaces; they remember Trollope's novels and feel something of the spirit of the old and real world that takes its pleasures happily and at one's ease.

Harassed and weary women wonder why all our social life cannot be arranged for the relaxed months after the way of the older civilizations, who could teach us so much if our ears were not stopped with cotton to the fall of leisurely methods. They contrast, peevishly, the exhausting strain of a party in a city with its complexity of detail and its burden of expense with a negligible strain and the simplicity of the English garden party.

And there's much in a name. "A tea," says the invited one, with a gesture of contempt and resignation. "A garden party," says society, "what fun. Let's go." And they do go. All in their best bib and tucker.

So it has come about that those who feel the urge to entertain look with an envious eye upon the possibilities of their porches and open spaces. If there is even one tree it is accounted a joy. If there are many success is assured, the prospective hostess.

than the overheated rooms of the city in winter and the inability of the parlor to hold the people with comfort.

The success of the debutante parties in June of this year has brought into full play the fashion for garden parties, the real English-French variety, and the small town and suburban houses have suddenly appeared to their owners as treasures.

Maybe Gen. Pershing was responsible for the fashion, although no man would be quicker to disclaim responsibility for a social fashion. He gave a memorable one last summer in Paris, in a great garden hemmed in by ancient walls in the heart of the old part of the loveliest city in the world, and he repeated it this summer in his home near Washington.

He cleverly adopted the old world custom of entertaining in the open and he stood, that day in Paris, surrounded by the important officers in our army and all that portion of the American war colony that had been invited to meet the French aristocrats and literary celebrities who had made him welcome.

There was dancing and music and all those colorful, luscious things to eat and drink that France serves at an afternoon event in the open when one's ancient walls protect guests from the public. It was more than a garden party that summer's day in Paris. It was a curious admixture of much that is important in the Old World and the new, symbolic, one hoped, of strong bonds of love and affection between the two continents. Marshal Foch and Gen. Pershing, standing together, seemed to prophesy a new understanding.

Possibly it was the memory of that historic garden party that impelled the American General to give another this summer. And possibly, because of his example, the minds of other Americans, rich and not rich, fashionable and not quite so fashionable, decided that it was a good way to pay off social obligations or merely to give pleasure. So garden parties became the fashion, the long may they remain. They open wide and safe channels for successful entertaining and bring to our hectic rushing about in search of pleasure an hour of serenity in which the cup of tea beneath the bough takes on new justice.

**A Chance for Thin Frocks.**

The successful attempt to make garden parties a fashion this summer has brought out much in the way of smart thin frocks.

The much abused sport costume has disappeared under the stream of creativity. It permits its substitute, the muslin or other transparent gown, to assert its right to be considered the proper thing for social occasions after the noon hour.

Everywhere there is a tendency to shelve the sweater and striped skirt which usurped the place of all other costumes as soon as June broke; to limit it to its rightful place of occasions, and to reinstate the glorified summer gown which goes with the gaieties of summer and gives to them the atmosphere of slight formality that they deserve.

It is foreboding the advent of the garden party into American life, the dressmakers have turned out alluring thin frocks as from a tip-tilted cornucopia. The assortment is astounding and did not care what the weather was like, the gowns were purchased as though the summer had burst upon us in its old and sometimes cruel way.

As for the climate this might be the season after the civil war, to judge solely by them. What was fashionable then is fashionable now, although the cut and drapery are altered. All the fabrics we wear now were called by other names in that epoch, but they appear the same.

Grenadine and voile are not far apart; organdies are the same, so are muslins; figured batiste is wanting because it is not manufactured, but its substitute is its twin sister.

Colored taffeta is desirable again, and it comes now, as then, in oyster coloring, to be worn with a necklace of amber beads or one of jade.

hour; temple curls are no longer a novelty.

A girl of the season is not a far cry from her grandmother when she goes to a garden party in a costume that is fresh from the press, bespeaking in its frills and ribbons, its lace and flowers a likeness to those ladies who stare at us from the pages of the family album.

One almost expects a curtsy. What a pity it has gone out! There are some who could afford to bring it back, if only out of affection. It so matches the frockman in a costume that is so nearly that of a bathing suit that carelessness is surmised. You feel about it as you do when you dream the universal dream that you have gone into the street half clothed and cannot find shelter.

**Picture Styles Return.**  
The strictly tailored woman has disappeared along with the one in the costume this summer when society assemblies for any occasion that does not occur in the forenoon.

In truth the tailored costume has not been much in evidence for more than a year, despite the fact that it has unusual fitness for the American.

It was these two kinds of clothes, you must remember, that dominated our wardrobes not long ago, and seemed to serve the woman over here for every hour of her life in which she was awake. She neglected the conventional afternoon frock because she indicated that it was troublesome and that it compelled her to rush home from other activity to change, and she preferred to neglect society if it caused her this especial bother. So we went as she was to whatever presented itself between the hours of four and seven.

Now she has changed her mind and her methods. It may be due to the coming of pleasant weather. It may be that she is weary of the extreme simplicity of the sweater and plaited skirt, or the jacket, skirt and severe blouse. She has other ideas about dress in her head, however, and she permits them full sway when she goes about these hot days to her afternoon pleasures, such as garden parties, for instance.

But with the advent of the open air coming out party those who are invited usually come, all of them. The world and his wife like to eat strawberries under striped tents and drink iced lemonade and tea in comfortable chairs with cushions on a flower strewn porch. They like to put on thin muslin frocks and wear big shades and drift away the twilight hours without the strain of having a dozen engagements dogging the heels and pressing on the brain.

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Sunshine may reveal more deficiencies in china and upholstery than electric light, but it is more kindly when it comes filtered through leaves, and even that which is old seems to take on a glamour when the sun begins to sink and the violet shades arrive. Really it is the most satisfying way in the world to entertain when one is not burdened with money and a frantic desire to show off the house in town.

And if it rains, as one may reasonably expect in hot weather, well, the porches and the flower filled interior look very attractive. Far better this annoyance

black tulle frocks. When there is a Puritan collar of white organdie to match the sash the effect is individual.

By the way, there is a good suggestion for bringing an old black frock into the limelight. The work can be done at home with slight cost and the effect will be expensive. Many women possess such gowns, possibly left over from the winter season. They may have appeared worthless at the approach of summer. Surely, the white organdie sash with its long ends and the deep collar flaring away from the back of the neck will give it a new lease of life.

**Sweaters Used as Garb of Economy**  
The sweater is an increasingly surprising part of our present day wardrobe. It is what the old time jersey used to be. It is more than that. It is the very cloak of charity itself. For it has come to be an accepted part of modern clothing that no woman is without. We accept it as we accept hats or gloves. Indeed, we wear sweaters rather often than we do gloves in these days of flexible fashion and high priced kid.

So the sweater is with us as a permanent part of our clothing accessories, and it is indeed more than an accessory. The other day a woman went shopping—to buy, as she said, half a dozen sweaters to cover her summer clothes needs. She had a couple of interesting separate skirts, one a Scotch plaid, one a silk of a new crepe weave in a silvery blue shade. With suitable sweaters and with white wash skirts she expected to be dressed from getting up time until dinner time without more ado. A few simple wash blouses and some other bits of washable material and the thing was done. She fastened the vests on washable net bodices to which she added the sweaters and wore them under the sweaters. And there she was, as dainty, comfortable and suitable as she could wish.

There are so many variations of the regulation sweater this year that it is hard to tell where the sweater ends and the blouse begins; where, on the other hand, the sweater begins and the skirt ends. For on the one hand the sweater approximates the blouse, and on the other the skirt almost serves the purpose of the sweater. But it is not until a garment has reached this stage of development that it really becomes an indispensable and tremendously useful thing.

It is when the sweater is made of silk that it looks like a blouse—made of silk in all-on style and perhaps embroidered or embellished with knitted wool lace. This, of course, is partly the fault of the new blouses. Many of them have evolved, or devolved, into almost sweater-like simplicity. But true it is, whatever the reason, that some of the new silk sweaters are confused with some of the new all-on outside blouses. Only a clever saleswoman knows which is which, and we must take her word for the difference. It is arbitrary.

On the other hand, the scarf that answers the purposes of a sweater is quite as usual. It is a glorified scarf, made often with long pocketed ends, belted in around the waist, sometimes even with extensions that go over the hips. It all came about from what we called beach

These blouses are often pleated and not gathered, and there are always three of them. The blouses are varied, some simple, and many are arranged to give the long waisted effect, difficult as that is with muslin or organdie.

Sashes are quite a fashion. True, they are tied in front to give exaggeration to the figure and a dash of impudence, but the conservatives continue to tie them at the side or in the back, not in the least afraid of being old fashioned.

**Sashes Are Important.**  
A garden party without a sashed frock, by the way, would not be according to well, to Jane Austen.

The desire to be ribboned is as great now as it was in the days of Charles II. The sash is an easy way to dispose of yards of material and there are few frocks that are not frankly built with the voluminous skirt in mind.

Ribbon is not the only fabric for them. Organdie has appeared. It is a novelty, but it is satisfying. It has been cunningly placed on frocks of black georgette crepe in imitation of the Paris fashion for putting sashes of white tulle on

Those who have been eagerly asking for another Merrick novel, who are of the steadily increasing number of those who admire his amazing artistry, will be glad to learn that his

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scarf a couple of years ago—those useful, soft scarfs, wide and long, made of angora. They were amplified and increased and manipulated until they took unto themselves some of the attributes and most of the uses of the sweater. Perhaps the one difference between the sweater and the scarf is that the scarf must be worn over a blouse, whereas half the time the sweater is worn in place of a blouse.

The sweater this summer is made of three materials—silk, wool and cotton. The cotton is of the mercerized sort, usually, and the mercerized cotton ones are often crocheted in flat stitch. Moreover, these cotton sweaters are usually made in light shades of blue, pink and lavender.

As for the silk sweaters—and they are ever increasingly expensive to make, for the silk keeps going up in price—they are made in all colors, from pure white to all black. Then, too, of course, they are made in black and white and in colors trimmed with black or white.

In both silk and wool several stitches are used in one sweater—stripes and checks, that is, or open stitchery combined with a close stitch like the Spaulding. This combination is always interesting, often as interesting as the combining of two colors.

One of the fads of the moment is the long rolling collar that rolls from end to end of the front of the sweater—a collar and never combined. This sort of sweater has a belt or girdle that holds the sweater in at the waist or hips, and of course, as the collar rolls far back, the fronts of the sweater never come together. It is an exceedingly graceful sort of sweater, quite one of the best that we have ever had. Sometimes this sort of collar is knitted in blocks forming a checker board pattern, in one color, however, rather than in two.

As for the sashes, they are sometimes knitted wide and sometimes narrow. They end in fringe, in tassels and in crocheted ornaments, sometimes flowers.

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1 Black tricotette Suit, embroidered coat and vest	\$125	\$89.50	1 Apricot Georgette Evening Gown, hand embroidered	\$198.50	\$98.50
1 Black tricotette Suit, braided and embroidered	\$150	\$89.50	1 Navy satin Dinner Dress, ecru macrame lace	\$112.50	\$75
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5 Tailored Suits, checks and plain suitings	\$92.50 to \$125	\$75	1 White printed Chiffon Dinner Gown over peach satin	\$198.50	\$135
1 Navy tricotette Suit, embroidered model	\$135	\$89.50	1 Light blue reception Frock, elaborately beaded	\$135	\$89.50
10 Large size tailored Suits, mixtures; navy blue hair line	\$55	\$21.75	1 Beige Dinner Gown, Georgette over pink	\$225	\$115
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